



EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting at 600 River Street, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rick Hernandez, Chair
Blanca Valencia, Co-Chair
Juan Oyervides, Member
Juanita Tijerina, Member
Ruth Powers, Member
Kathy Vale-Castillo, Member (left @ 7:45)

Aldo Davila, Member
Adriel Meditz, Member
Anna Maciel, Member
Julia Aguilar, Member

Board Members Absent:

Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Esparza, HAND Manager
Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Manager
Socorro Chapa, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant

A. Call to Order: Chair Rick Hernandez called the Board Meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

B. Citizen Communication: None.

C. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed. Member Vale-Castillo motioned to approve the minutes with a second by Co-Chair Valencia. Motion passed (10.0).

D. Presentations:

Kim McNeeley, PARD Assistant Director gave a presentation on the Texas State Open Carry law and how it relates to city property and public facilities such as the ESB-MACC. She explained that she would make a list of any questions that she is not qualified to answer and would provide answers at the next board meeting.

a. McNeeley went on to explain the following about the Texas State Open Carry Law:

- Texans may not carry and possess certain kinds of weapons such as machine guns or sawed off shot guns.
- State law allows a licensed gun holder to carry a hand gun in most public facilities, and a sign posted outside the door during board meetings prohibits the carry of concealed or not concealed guns. When the board meeting is over the sign is removed and it becomes an open public space where guns are allowed.
- One is allowed to carry the gun on a holster on your waist, or over your shoulder but is not allowed to take it out of their holster.
- Signage displayed must be approved by Building Services Department, which has been approved by the City's Law Department.
- The definitions of public places are parks, park buildings, libraries, plazas, building lobbies, and public restrooms. Examples of where guns would be prohibited would be offices, restricted floors in buildings, or classrooms where registered participants are in class.

- Guns are prohibited by law in court facilities, city council meetings, city board and commission meetings, polling places on election days, the airport and a city facility where a school is conducting an activity.
 - McNeeley explained that City employees were required to attend training to understand the responsibilities and actions required of each site.
- b. Member Oyervides asked McNeeley if there were any city facilities that have children programming that allow open carry or concealed. McNeeley stated that all spaces are open carry. The only facility is a certified Nature's Way Preschool that dictates a certified preschool and one is not allowed to have guns on campus.
 - c. Many questions were asked by board members and McNeeley will check with the Law Department, for clarification on their questions.

E. Briefing, Discussion and/or Action Items.

1. Chair Hernandez and board members discussed a motion to write a recommendation to the City Council to request that the MACC facility be a gun-free zone. Since it was not an agenda item, no action was taken.
 - a. McNeeley stated that if enough individual boards are sending the messages that the gun laws were concerning them, then it can be presented at the next legislature. The Board could make that point on how this is impacting the City. Laura Esparza will ask the City Clerk's Office how many boards or individuals have expressed concern and report back to the Board.
 - b. Member Davila voiced his support for concealed and open carry and opposed the recommendation. Member Davila asked if the Board proceeds to go with the recommendation he would like to go on record that he opposed the recommendation.
 - c. Member Oyervides expressed his support for the recommendation to the City Council as previously written with the notation indicating Member Davila's position.
 - d. Member Oyervides motioned that the Board recommend to City Council that the ESB-MACC facility be a gun free zone. Co-Chair Valencia moved to add the amendment noting Member Davila's position. Member Tijerina seconded the motion. Motion passed (9.0). Voting in favor were Chair Hernandez, Co-Chair Valencia, Members Oyervides, Tijerina, Powers, Maciel, Aguilar, Meditz, and Vale-Castillo. Member Davila opposed. Member Cerda-Prazak was absent.
2. Kim McKnight of the PARD Planning Department gave a progress report on the working group formed to develop recommendations for staff to incorporate into a scope of work for the architect who will be charged with updating the ESB-MACC Master Plan.
 - a. McKnight stated she will be facilitating the master plan update process on behalf of the Parks Department.
 - b. She received the scope of work and thanked the working group for their ideas about what was envisioned. She will work closely with MACC staff to determine a scope of work and bring on a design consultant.
 - c. Member Tijerina recommended bringing in a focus group to engage the community.
 - d. Member Valencia suggested considering merging conversations with the Waller Creek Conservancy.
 - e. Member Vale-Castillo asked when the signed contracts would be ready. McKnight stated she would give an update next month.
3. Member Valencia reported on the Waller Creek Conservancy Working Group.
 - a. The group toured the areas where the Waller Creek project will be designed. There are a number of possibilities and opportunities for the Center to contribute in the planning. McKnight mentioned that she would like to attend the working group meetings. Member Davila who also attended the meeting stated the biggest thing is to encourage foot traffic and get the community to visit the MACC.

- b. Member Valencia stated safety is also an issue. None of the design is set in stone and there is opportunity for input.
- 4. Member Oyervides gave a slide show presentation on the Wall of Excellence project.
 - a. Chair Oyervides mentioned that the completion date for the wall would be at the end of February, and a plaque would be designed to recognize the donors that contributed to the project as well as the designers.

F. Staff Reports

1. Laura Esparza stated she was not able to get a CIP balance but she will email it to the Board as soon as she gets it.
 - a. The new project manager for the Wall of Excellence project is George Maldonado and he will oversee ESB-MACC CIP projects.
 - b. The estimated cost to refinish the multi-purpose floors is \$10,000-\$12,000.
 - c. The fixtures on the lights in the parking lot are custom fixtures and the ballasts cannot be replaced because the fixtures are custom fabricated to fit those poles.
 - d. Esparza stated that a request has been submitted to the Budget office to add lighting poles, not just fix the custom ones and the request will be considered in the new budget in October.
 - e. Chair Hernandez stated he received a call from a City employee working on City sidewalks that he suggested adding lighting to the circle. Chair Hernandez will talk to him and get back to the Board.
2. Update on the LARP selection process.
 - a. Laura Esparza stated she emailed Roen Salinas to request a meeting and did not receive a response from him.
 - b. Herlinda Zamora stated the announcement of selected LARP residents will be announced at the next meeting.
3. January Programs.
 - a. Herlinda Zamora talked about the upcoming events in February and provided a media and marketing report for January with the number of participants, visitors, and collaborations.
 - b. Member Maciel inquired about placing a sign for the MACC on IH35. It was noted that the requirement for a sign is that the MACC would need to have 300,000 visitors a year. Zamora mentioned that the Center is only at about 30,000. Member Maciel stated that marketing efforts need to be more effective. Chair Hernandez encouraged the use of social media to get the word out. Zamora reminded the Board that an Outreach Coordinator was approved by City Council and will be hired soon.
 - c. Chair Hernandez asked members to try and attend the programs. Zamora will send a sign-up memo to board members or they can let her know which events they can attend.

Future Agenda Items from Board Members:

1. Member Oyervides observed on the second floor glass rail that the metal post that inserts into the concrete floor is rusting badly. He requested that the staff check to see what can be done to fix it.
2. Member Davila requested a staff report on the lighting and a status update on the repair and the supplemental lighting.
3. Member Tijerina would like a report on outreach and marketing.

H. Adjournment

Member Davila made a motion to adjourn. Member Maciel second the motion. Motion passed. (9.0) Member Vale-Castillo was not present for the vote. Member Cerda-Prazak was absent. Chair Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.